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Southern District of New York

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FORMER HOME HEALTHCARE AIDE SENTENCED TO 48 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR DEFRAUDING ELDERLY SCARSDALE COUPLE

Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that ISABEL WILSON was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Vincent L. Briccetti to 48 months in prison for various crimes related to her stealing the identities of an elderly couple in Scarsdale, New York, while serving as the couples' live-in home healthcare aide, and then using those identities to open several credit cards in the couples' names. WILSON was convicted on July 26, 2001, after a one-week trial before Judge Briccetti in White Plains federal court.

In sentencing WILSON, Judge Briccetti called the defendant "a thief" and described her behavior as "despicable." He added, "You victimized two elderly and infirm people."

According to the Complaint and Superseding Indictment, other court documents, and testimony and evidence presented at trial, in December 2005, WILSON was hired as a live-in home healthcare aide for an elderly couple who suffered from dementia. WILSON used the couples' names, Social Security numbers, and dates of birth to open seven credit cards in their names. WILSON then used those cards to purchase over \$73,000 in luxury goods for her husband and herself, including plane tickets, furniture, clothing, and a down payment on a Porsche.

WILSON hid the scheme by having some of the credit card statements sent to a post office box that she obtained near the couples' Scarsdale home. When she applied for that post office box, WILSON presented the postal clerk with a United States passport as identification. WILSON, who is a citizen of Liberia and is not a United States citizen, obtained that passport by using the identity of a third victim, a woman from Rhode Island. Before getting the passport, WILSON went to the Queens County Court and changed the Rhode Island woman's name to her own, thereby ensuring that the fraudulently obtained passport would have her own name on it.

WILSON lied repeatedly to federal authorities. She lied about her identity to United States Secret Service agents who were looking for her in order to arrest her; she lied to a Pretrial Services officer and a Deputy United States Marshal about her place of birth, claiming falsely to have been born in North Carolina; she also falsely told a Deputy United States Marshal that she was a United States citizen; and she provided the Deputy Marshal with a Social Security number that had been assigned by the Social Security Administration after WILSON falsely stated in a Social Security Card application that her place of birth was North Carolina.

WILSON was convicted of one count of access device fraud, one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of use of a passport obtained by fraud, one count of use of a Social Security number assigned on the basis of false information, three counts of false statements to a federal officer, and one count of false claim to United States citizenship.

Mr. Bharara thanked the United States Secret Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Department of State, the Social Security Administration, the United States Marshals Service, and the United States Postal Inspection Service for their work in this investigation.

This case is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant United States Attorneys Douglas B. Bloom and Perry A. Carbone are in charge of the prosecution.

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